(c) to what extent the grievances of the staff have been solved and what are the new rules framed and to what extent Air India would be improving its management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) Air India Management has signed an agreement with the Air India Cabin Crew Association on 25.12.1988, relating to :

(i) reduction of the cabin crew compliment on B-747 and Airbus A-310 aircraft,

(ii) introduction of weight checks,

(iii) operation of IL-62 aricraft with part Indian and Part Russian Cabin Crew,

(iv) superannuation medical checks,

(v) clause relating to marriage,

(vi) increase in promotion posts.

(c) Service Regulations of Air India will be suitably amended to incorporate these changes. It is expected that the performance and productivity would improve.

Acquisition of ships by the Shipping Corporation of India

887. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has embarked upon a massive ship acquisition programme in the next couple of years ;

(b) if so, what is the total number of vessels or ships which would be acquired; and

(c) what are the details of the total investment made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Shipping Corporation of India has been upgrading/modernising its fleet by acquiring modern fuel efficient ships and specialised ships.

(b) and (c) In the next couple of years, Shipping Corporation of India plans to acquire 48 ships with a GRT of 15·87 lakh tons involving investment of Rs. 2369 crores approx.

Increase in rail traffic between Ahmedabad and Bombay

888. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail traffic between Ahmedabad and Bombay has increased manifold while increase in the number of trains between Ahmedabad and Bombay is negligible, particularly during the night time:

(b) what was the total of waiting list of passengers in I A/C, I and II A/C and II Class in Gujarat Mail during last three months to and fro from Ahmedabad and Bombay and what is the accommodation capacity in various classes; and

(c) what are the reasons for not starting any new night trains between Bombay and Ahmedabad in spite of heavy surplus traffic on this route ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There has been some increase in the rail traffic between Ahmedabad and Bombay.

(b) The total reserved accommodation available by 1/2 Gujarat Mail *vis-a-vis* the daily average number of passengers left on the